

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11-13 are independent and are hereby amended in this response. Claim 7 has been cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification as originally filed.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 13 has been amended, thereby obviating the rejection.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that claim 7 recites allowable subject matter.

Independent claims 1 and 11-13 have been amended to include features of claim 7 and, therefore, are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6 and 8-10, which depend from claim 1, are also in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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